



February 28, 2019

The Ventura Unified Education Association works to be sure our members can do what is best for all the students and families of Ventura. Recently, a complaint was filed by Mr. John Walker that mentioned the VUEA as 'blocking' a schedule change at Buena High School. Some of the teaching faculty at BHS had requested a change from a formal six period school day to a new seven period school day. The teachers and staff at BHS investigated the change, as did the Ventura Unified School District.

The VUEA members at the site identified a few major concerns with the proposed change. Adding a period to the schedule allows students to take seven periods, where most students currently take six. This puts more students in classes. We are worried about class sizes increasing in the core academic classes and other classes. Students deserve the very best instruction and adding students to already large classes works against all the students in the class. The BHS teachers are committed to providing the best teaching they can; making class sizes too big doesn't help anyone.

There are other concerns that also need to be addressed. Interestingly, though, even with the concerns, the VUEA members at BHS voted favorably to make the change. However, BHS had to vote to approve this change by a two-thirds majority, and the vote didn't reach that standard.

I believe the BHS teachers are still interested in changing to a seven-period day. I think that once VUSD adequately addresses our concerns (class sizes, resources, school safety, adequate nursing at the site, etc.) the VUEA members at BHS will be more likely to vote again.

Less than a decade ago, the VUEA members at Ventura High School voted to go to a seven-period day. Each year, those teachers vote to keep that schedule. VUEA members always place the needs of students and families first. We didn't 'block' anything, we are only ensuring that any proposed change is done in a way to support all students.

Lastly, I am very happy that Mr. Walker continues to be involved in the business of VUSD. He has a wealth of knowledge and experience and has always put students first. His is the kind of volunteer advocacy that genuinely helps VUSD and the people of Ventura.